

Kentucky Lung Cancer Research Program
Governance Board Meeting
November 12, 2009

MINUTES

Attendees

Members: Dr. Kristie J. Paris, Chair; Dr. John W. Eaton, Dr. B. Mark Evers, Dan Flanagan, Dr. Donald M. Miller, Dr. Timothy Mullett, Dr. James Roach, Bonnie Roberts

Guests: Chad Bowman, Chris Damron, Jason Greene, Dr. Lewis Kelly, Diane K. Konzen, Dr. Linda Linville, Milton C. Pierson, Beth Yost

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Dr. Kristie J. Paris, Chair.

Minutes of last meeting: Approved after typos corrected.

Investigator-Initiated Research Projects

Dr. Miller reported that 3 of the 5 highest ranked Cycle 9 applications from the University of Louisville were submitted by new scientists – the 2nd generation of cancer scientists. This is what we hoped to do when we started the program. He also pointed out that a large number of previously funded investigators have received funding from the National Institutes of Health and other national organizations.

Dr. Paris asked if annual reports and abstracts and other publications resulting from KLCRP funded grants were available and could be submitted to the Board – starting with current fundees and going forward. Both institutions submit quarterly reports to the Health Care Improvement Authority that include the status of current investigator-initiated grants as well as publications and follow-on funding received in the quarter. Dr. Miller thought this would be a good reporting mechanism and he and Dr. Evers agreed to provide this information to the Board. Dr. Paris asked that the Clinical Trials Network provide similar information for their studies.

Kentucky Clinical Trials Network

Ms. Damron reported that more than 160 patients have been recruited to date. The past 18 months have seen tremendous growth in patient accrual. The KCTN has a number of industry-sponsored studies, and several investigator-initiated studies are in the pipeline.

Dr. Mullett asked that both UK and UofL put their investigator-initiated funded work into the KCTN, and suggested that if a clinical trial was being offered at either institution that it also be made available through the network, making it available to all patients in Kentucky who fit the study criteria. He also pointed out that this is a great way to demonstrate cooperativity of the institutions.

Dr. Paris asked whether any basic science studies funded by KLCRP have led to clinical trials. Ms. Damron said that has been the case, and, as an example, mentioned the work of Drs. Yannelli and Hirschowitz, which led to a clinical trial through the KCTN.

Cycle 9 Investigator-Initiated Funding

A motion to fund the 10 applications (5 from each institution, chosen through external peer review) before the Board was presented and approved.

University of Kentucky

Marty Driesler Cancer Project	Susanne Arnold	\$150,000
Mixed Polymer Nanoassemblies for Tunable Combination Drug Delivery to Lung Cancer Tumors	Younsoo Bae	\$150,000
PTEN and Akt Regulation by A Novel Pathway in Lung Cancer	Rolf Craven	\$150,000
Immunoproteasome in Lung Cancer	Woojin Lee	\$150,000
Physical Mechanisms of VEGF Receptor Activation and Novel Modes of Inhibition	Craig Vander Kooi	\$150,000
TOTAL REQUESTED		\$750,000

University of Louisville

STARD5 Expression and Chemoresistance of Lung Adenocarcinoma Cells	Barbara J. Clark	\$150,000
Novel Small Molecule Inhibitors of Choline Kinase as a Therapeutic Strategy against Lung Cancer	Brian F. Clem	\$150,000
Exosomal microRNA Profiles for Differential Diagnosis and Disease Monitoring	Cicek Gercel-Taylor	\$150,000
Role of GPR30, A Novel Estrogen Receptor G-Protein Coupled Receptor, in the Development of Lung Cancer	Venkatakrishna R. Jala	\$150,000
Visualization of Hypoxia and Angiogenesis in Lung Cancer Metastases	Xiao-Feng Li	\$150,000
TOTAL REQUESTED		\$750,000

Cycle 10 Investigator-Initiated Funding

Drs. Evers and Miller put forth the suggestion that the next round of Investigator-initiated funding be dedicated to joint applications between investigators at the UofL and UK.

Funding to KLCRP / Ovarian Cancer Screening Program

Dr. Paris reported that she had sent several letters to state legislators to learn about the ovarian cancer screening project and also asked for a meeting with the Governor. She has received no response to date. There is a worry that the establishment of and increases in ovarian cancer screening funding will continue to reduce funding for KLCRP.

Dr. Miller suggested that, prior to meeting with the state, the Board obtain input from the previous chair, Dr. Harry Carloss, who has studied this matter in great detail and could be a great help. He also suggested that it might be a good idea to have a conversation

about this issue with Senator Tim Shaughnessy, who can provide a better assessment of what is politically feasible.

The Board is concerned that funding for ovarian cancer screening continues to go up, while we have an equivalent program and the funding, as a result, has gone down. We have to be careful, however, that our efforts don't lead to losing the funding we have.

Dr. Mullett suggested that rather than asking for more money, we need to point out that, in Kentucky, more people are dying from lung cancer than any other cancer. When the KLCRP was being set up we had a number of people present who were emotional about lung cancer. Our appeal is that we are doing what the legislature requested and through cooperation and collaboration have provided real value for the funding received to date; we would like to request an increase in the funding.

The upshot of the discussion is that Dr. Paris will go ahead with organizing the meeting(s), but use them for fact finding, and go from there.

When a date is set, Dr. Paris will let everyone know.

Tobacco Summit

Diane Konzen reported that planning for the summit had been placed on hold temporarily while organization of the joint lung cancer symposium between UK and UofL - Saturday, November 21, at the new research building at UofL - could be completed.

Dr. Miller reported that he had talked with people at Vanderbilt University and the University of Nebraska who would be very interested in participating in a summit to compare progress of the various programs. He indicated that what Kentucky has done with its funding may be unique.

The suggested timing for this meeting is spring 2010. April was discussed in the previous Governance Board meeting, but no decision was made.

Strategic Plan

At the last Governance Board meeting a new, updated strategic plan was approved based on several meetings between the two cancer center directors. There are no updates or suggestions for changes at this time.

Council on Postsecondary Education

CPE member Dan Flanagan provided an update on the Council's role in administering the pass through funds of KLCRP. While it has been suggested that the money go directly to the two universities, the council has not requested the necessary statutory amendments, but have been discussing the proposed change with legal counsel. Dr. Miller commented that the Council had done a good job representing the interests of the two institutions to date and it may be the appropriate to continue as a pass-through program for the present.

Action Items

- Diane Konzen - draft letter of approval from Dr. Paris for the Governance Board to CPE authorizing Investigator-Initiated funds disbursement to the Markey and Brown Cancer Centers to fund the 10 grants approved above.
- Dr. Paris – schedule a fact-finding meeting with legislators
- Dr. Evers and Dr. Miller – provide information on current Investigator-Initiated grants

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 13, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. This meeting will be held at CPE in Frankfort.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Dr. Eaton and Mr. Pierson provided tours of the Clinical and Translational Research Building.